

47 ~~St.~~ Hamilton Gardens.

Grove End Road. N. H.

21 May 1883

Professor Asa Gray,

Dear Sir,

I must thank you very much for sending me your notice of "Guesses at Purpose" in the "Literary World". It is a longer notice than one could expect for so small a work, which, as you justly observe, belongs after all to natural theology. I am much gratified at your appreciation of the

pains taken in writing it,  
for I am fully conscious  
that its chief merit is  
sobriety of thought & caution.  
One is always taking the  
unpopular side in defending  
a doctrine, as a reader's  
sympathy is usually with  
the attack.

If the little work gets to  
a second edition I shall  
have the pleasure of forwarding  
it to you.

You will find ~~my~~ your  
kind correction about blue

front incorporated into  
the work in its proper place.  
I read your letter in *Nature*  
with great pleasure. I find  
the South Kensington Library  
now takes in only one  
American scientific journal.  
Not wishing to trespass upon  
your valuable time any  
longer I remain,

Dear Professor,  
Very sincerely yours  
W. V. James